

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

KOKURA, Kazumasa

Continuation of Serial No. 09/497,643

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 8, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: A FORKLIFT HAVING A LIGHT SOURCE AND LENS COMBINATION THAT
PROVIDES A SHAPED LIGHT BEAM (as amended)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please delete the present title and replace it with the following new title:

A FORKLIFT HAVING A LIGHT SOURCE AND LENS COMBINATION THAT
PROVIDES A SHAPED LIGHT BEAM

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before the first line, insert the following new paragraph:

This is a Continuation of Application No. 09/497,643 (filed February 3, 2000, and

A allowed January 10, 2002), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

#3/A
GRE-PANOT
J. Macmillan
4/12/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation Application of Serial No. 09/497,643 (*Q67788*)

Page 3, please delete the first full paragraph, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

When a light beam is emitted toward a pallet from a laser light source which is attached to a lift bracket or a fork so as to illuminate tines of the fork, the light beam which is expanded by the lens into a fan-like shape in a plan view impinges on the pallet. As a result, as shown in *A2* Fig. 3, a linear light spot 20 is formed which extends over right and left ends and a center beam portion that cooperate to form fork insertion openings 17a between a deckboard and an edgeboard.

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

According to this configuration, as shown in Fig. 3, the laser light emitted from the detecting device 1 forms a light spot having a predetermined length in the direction of a horizontal plane or a direction parallel to a pallet. When the light spot impinges on a pallet, the light spot has a shape which laterally elongates, as indicated by 20, so that a wide range *A3* including the insertion openings 17a of the pallet 17 is irradiated. When the light spot impinges on a load 19 placed on the pallet 17, the load 19 can be surely irradiated regardless of the placement position of the load 19, as indicated by 22a.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation Application of Serial No. 09/497,643 (*Q67788*)

Page 5, please delete the first full paragraph, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

As described above, the optical pallet detecting device 1 is attached to the position where the device can perform illumination along the same plane as the tines of the fork and on a straight line. When the forklift 11 is advanced after the light spot is formed as indicated by 20 in Fig. 3, therefore, the fork 15 can be surely inserted into the insertion openings 17a of the pallet 17.

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

According to the invention, as described above, the light beam emitted from the laser light source is formed into a lateral shape which elongates in the width direction of a pallet. The light spot 20 is surely formed in a gap between a load and another load 9, the insertion openings of the pallet 17, and the like. Namely, the light spot 20 which laterally elongates is always formed. As a result, the invention attains an effect that the operator is prevented from losing sight of the light spot 20 and hence loading and unloading works can be smoothly conducted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A forklift comprising:

a main body;

a mast disposed on said main body;